

Minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council
held on Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 7:30pm at Bobbington Village Hall

Present: Councillor: Mrs I Rees (Chairman)
Councillors: S Hadgett, and Mrs J Stanton
Victoria Morris – Clerk to the Council
PCSO Paula Wilkes

2055. To elect the Chair of the meeting

The Clerk opened the meeting and gave the apologies of both the Chairman and Vice Chairman. As the meeting was quorate, she called upon those present to elect a Chairman for the meeting. Cllr. Mrs Stanton proposed Cllr. Mrs Rees, Cllr. Hadgett seconded the proposal. Cllr. Mrs Rees was elected Chairman of the meeting.

2056. Apologies:

Apologies for non-attendance. Mrs. L Jones, District and County Councillor Mrs V Wilson, M Snelson, A Burton and M Slater.

2057. Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

2058. Minutes:

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of Bobbington Parish Council held on 15 June 2022, a copy having previously been circulated to each member of the Council, be approved.

2059. Matters arising:

a. Unkempt properties/gardens

There was nothing further to report with respect to the property in Brantley Lane nor any update from the District Council.

b. Stiles – Public Rights of Way

Alastair Bentley, Staffordshire County Council's rights of way volunteer co-ordinator, had confirmed that they can supply the materials to carry out repairs to the rights of way network and may also be able to supply some hand tools to help with the rights of way tasks. He had asked whether the Parish had anywhere to store the equipment, if not he or one of his colleagues could deliver the materials needed to site on either the day of the repair or the day before. They would need to know at what location on the rights of way network the repairs have been carried out to avoid any confusion.

He suggested a meeting to discuss how we move forward and how we work together in the future? Those present agreed we should invite him to a meeting. It was confirmed that all stile issues had already been reported on their website.

Ame Holroyd, Staffordshire County Council had also responded to the request for style kits. There was an overlap with the information she and Alastair required, as such, it was agreed to direct all enquiries through Alastair at the current time.

c. Smartwater

It was agreed to adjourn this to the next meeting for an update from Cllr. Mrs Wilson.

2060. Churchyard

As previously agreed, Cllr. Mrs Stanton and Cllr. Hadgett have met with the PCC. Unfortunately, Cllr. Mrs Jones was unable to attend due to annual leave. There are currently seven burial plots remaining in the Churchyard. Cllr. Mrs Stanton had carried out some research prior to the meeting to evaluate the options available. She made the proposal of “dig and deepen” where Church of England rules permit the remains to be lifted and sunk deeper to permit a burial on top.

The PCC were not aware of this, however, agreed to make further enquiries. On the East side there are no headstones due to the burials being so old, it was estimated that this may result in 30 additional plots.

The PCC next meet on 3 August 2022, Cllr. Hadgett will try to attend.

2061. Highway Matters

a. Flooding - Six Ashes Road

The road closure and anticipated works are due to be carried out next week. It was agreed at the last meeting to wait until the works are completed to reassess the position.

b. Tom Lane - visibility splays

Nothing further to report. It is unsure whether the upcoming road closure will include work on these areas.

c. Upcoming Road closures

- i. **Leaton Lane, Bobbington** - length of Leaton Lane at the junction with Crab Lane because of the likelihood of danger to the public during burst water main repairs being undertaken by South Staffordshire Water. It is anticipated that the closure will be in place between 22:30 hours on 18th July 2022 and 18:00 hours on 22nd July 2022.
- ii. **Six Ashes Rd, Six Ashes** from its junction with A458 Bridgnorth Road and Tuck Hill for a distance of approximately 420 metres and Tuck Hill, Six Ashes from its junction with A458 Bridgnorth Road and Six Ashes Rd for a distance of approximately 100 metres. The order will come into operation on 26 July 2022 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date taking place daily between the hours of 09:30 and 15:30. It is anticipated that the works will be completed by 27 July 2022. The closures are for Openreach works for overhead cabling.
- iii. **Tom Lane** from Heathton Road to New Road for a period of 2 days but no more than 5 days from 4th August 2022 because of the likelihood of danger to the public during carriageway repairs being undertaken by Staffordshire County Council. It is anticipated that the closure will be in place between 09:30 hours on 4th August 2022 and 15:00 hours on 5th August 2022.

d. Complaint re verges

Cllr. Mrs Jones had taken a call from a parishioner complaining bitterly about the poor visibility particularly at road junctions around Halfpenny Green. Cllr. Mrs

Jones agreed with her and explained that the Parish Council has made similar complaints. The Parishioner says she has raised it with the Council but not had a response and will now write to Gavin Williamson MP to repeat the complaint. She claims she has had several near misses with other vehicles on the road.

Cllr. Mrs Wilson has kindly made enquiries at the District Council who agreed to review it further because the verges they cut should not get to the stage where visibility is an issue. It should have only been cut a couple of weeks prior to this.

The Parishioner also complained about the lack of white lines in the village. Cllr. Mrs. Jones confirmed this had been previously discussed and encouraged her to attend the next parish council meeting.

2062. Friends of Bobbington

Diane Firkins, Staffordshire Highways, had also responded to the request for equipment. She had managed to get 4 high visibility wear, some working gloves and a handful of black bin liner sacks to assist. She is happy to make arrangements to get these delivered if we can advise where.

Diane was interested in knowing the areas we are considering to tackle, it was agreed the Clerk would send some examples.

A discussion followed. It was agreed that the group would still need other equipment, for example litter pickers – it was suggested that Cllr. Mrs Wilson's Community Fund may be one source of funding available. The Clerk agreed to speak to Cllr. Mrs Wilson.

Unfortunately, the July get together was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. However, some weeding was carried out later in the week around the post box. The next event will be on 20 August 2022.

2063. Reports from Committee Representatives

Corbett School

Cllr Burton reported that the school will have two head teachers from September. Mr Pardoe will be the ongoing Head once the initiation period has been concluded. Rebecca Hewitt will cover Mrs Langford whilst she is on maternity leave. Six children have left the school since the last Parish Council feedback. There are a variety of reasons for their departure.

There has been an increase in spending on PE equipment. Performance data for the school has been very good. The SIAMS inspection, resulted in a "Good", which is the top accolade. The year 6's leave to progress their education at their chosen secondary schools.

Family, Faith and Fellowship, is not supported by children or parents.

Village Hall

Cllr. Mrs Stanton had nothing to report.

Church of the Holy Cross

There was nothing to report.

Community Speed Watch ("CSW")

Cllr. Burton reported that there had been one session of speed watch since the last Parish Council Meeting. This was on 16th June 2022. There were 4 speeding vehicles out of 43 cars passing. The fastest speed was 44mph.

Police Crime Report**Vehicle Crime –**

- Six Ashes Road - 27/06 – At 00:30hrs 2 unknown offenders entered a location where a Land Rover Defender was parked up, hotwired the vehicle driving off with it at 01:30hrs. Nothing evidential on the cctv, no witnesses or lines of enquiry
- Wolverhampton Airport – 03/07- Sometime overnight a scrap vehicle was taken from off of the airport, no cctv, witnesses or lines of enquiry
- Tom Lane – 14/07 – At approximately 13:00hrs 2 motorcycles a Honda CRF 250 and a Honda CBR 50 were taken off a driveway. No cctv, witnesses or lines of enquiry.
- Six Ashes Road – 08/07 – At approximately 19:00hrs Staffordshire Police road crime team were in a pursuit with a Skoda Octavia VRS who failed to stop. The driver ran into nearby fields but was later found by West Midlands Police dog and arrested. Enquiries are in hand regarding offences.

The emergency services had taken part in a training exercise at the airfield. Fire, Police and Ambulance services were all present for the mock air crash, scrap vehicles were used as part of the scene.

Cross border operations are in place this week.

Current personnel are based in Codsall and Wombourne which is working really well for the team.

2064. Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

2065. Finance:-**a. Internal audit year ended 31 March 2022**

Mr Alan Dudley has signed the internal audit report. All necessary returns have now been submitted for the year ended 31 March 2022.

b. Jubilee Bobbington Bash

The Clerk presented the accounts to those present. These were proposed by Cllr Mrs Stanton and seconded by Cllr. Hadgett. The Clerk will incorporate these figures into the annual Parish Council accounts.

c. Cheques

i.	Corbett school	S137	£450
ii.	Halfpenny Green Air Scouts	S137	£450
iii.	Holy Cross Church	S137	£450
iv.	Cllr Snelson	Exps as Chair of Bobbington Bash	£1,338.56
v.	Clerk	Exps re Bobbington Bash	£1,110.94

2066. Planning matters

- a. Received 22/00671/FUL – Land adjacent to Meadow View, Six Ashes Road, Bobbington, DY7 5DT; Conversion of existing oak framed leisure building into

single detached dwelling along with the demolition of existing glass houses to allow for proposed garage block as a trade-off – a long discussion was held particularly with respect to agricultural buildings. It was agreed that objections should be logged with respect to this application for a number of reasons

- b. Received and responded to:
- c. Outcomes:

2067. Airfield matters

Cllr. Mrs Rees reported that a virtual meeting is due to be held in September.

2068. Correspondence

Circulated by email prior to the meeting:-

Voluntary sector news for Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent (VAST)
 South Staffordshire Council (SSDC) - Council news round-up 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275
 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) bulletin – 11/7/22, 4/7/22, 27/6/22, 20/6/22
 SSDC Streetscene update 15
 SCC – Road closures re Commonwealth Games 2022
 Royal British Legion – Queens Green Canopy project
 Staffordshire County Council (“SCC”) Highways bulletin June 2022
 Staffordshire libraries What’s going on in your libraries South Staffordshire area Aug 2022
 Commonwealth Games – 2022 cycling time trial event
 Staffordshire libraries What’s happening in your library 15/7/22
 Staffordshire libraries Discover your library in July
 SSDC Correspondence from the leader of SSC – July 2022
 SSDC Community safety newsletter
 Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service – please protect green spaces
 Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service – Local authority community newsletter
 SSC Fly-tipping presentation
 Staffordshire Commissioner – have your say on local policing
 Staffordshire Police launches local policing with communities at its heart

2069. AOB

In a recent SPCA newsletter it was suggested that defibrillator locations should be registered on the “Circuit”. The Clerk was unsure as to whether the defibrillator at the Red Lion was already registered on this system. Cllr. Snelson oversaw a registration process, but it wasn’t clear if it was the same system. If it isn’t, it was agreed it should be.

Cllr Hadgett reported that there were a number of damaged bins within the village. For example, the door on the bin opposite the substation doesn’t shut properly and there is no bin inside the bin cover outside the church.

Date of the next meeting 21 September 2022

Meeting Closed